

Message Text

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ORIGIN MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NSC-05 PC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USSS-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15
AID-05 PRS-01 USIE-00 L-03 H-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 DODE-00
CCO-00 PA-01 /056 R

DRAFTED BY M/CT:RPMYERS:DR

APPROVED BY AMB. HECK

NSC: MS. PISANO

PC - MS. BRINKMAN

ARA/AND/C-MR. COX

S/S-O: R PERITO

-----151835Z 051479 /43

O 151821Z FEB 77 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CASC, CO.

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF PCV IN COLOMBIA

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE ON KIDNAPPING OF PCV
IN COLOMBIA FOR USE BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT TODAY'S
NOONDAY PRESS CONFERENCE:

QUESTION: IS IT TRUE THAT AN AMERICAN HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED
IN COLOMBIA?

ANSWER: YES. A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER BY THE NAME OF
RICHARD CHARLES STARR WAS KIDNAPPED IN COLOMBIA ON
FEBRUARY 14. REPORTEDLY GUERRILLAS BELONGING TO "FARC"-
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THE REVOLUTIONARY COLOMBIAN ARMED FORCES - SEIZED MR.
STARR DURING AN ATTACK ON A POLICE POST LOCATED IN
THE MACARENA MOUNTAINS SOUTH OF VILLAVICENCIO.

QUESTION: CAN YOU GIVE US ANY INFORMATION ON MR. STARR?

ANSWER: STARR IS A 30-YEAR OLD BOTANIST. HIS HOME TOWN
IS LISTED AS EDMONDS, WASHINGTON. HE HAS BEEN IN

COLOMBIA SINCE JUNE 1976 AND SERVING IN THE FIELD

AS A BOTANIST SINCE AUGUST 1976.

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON MR. STARR'S
HEALTH OR WHEREABOUTS?

ANSWER: NO WE DO NOT AT THIS TIME.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE US GOVERNMENT DOING IN THIS CASE?

ANSWER: WE ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT
AUTHORITIES THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN BOGOTA.

QUESTION: HAVE THERE BEEN ANY DEMANDS?

ANSWER: NO.

QUESTION: WHAT IS OUR POLICY IN DEALING WITH SITUATIONS
OF THIS TYPE?

ANSWER: OBVIOUSLY EVERY TERRORIST CASE IS DIFFERENT.
THEREFORE, WE DO NOT COMMENT DURING AN INCIDENT
ON EITHER OUR POLICY OR TACTICS. WE BELIEVE THIS
TO BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE HOSTAGE AND ASSUME
THAT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND OUR REASON FOR DOING SO.

QUESTION: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT FARC?

ANSWER: I'D RATHER NOT GET INTO TOO MUCH DETAIL ON
FARC AT THIS POINT. SUFFICE IT IS TO SAY THAT FARC IS
A PRO-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION THAT HAS BEEN ACTIVE
IN COLOMBIA FOR SEVERAL YEARS."

2. EMBASSY SHOULD DRAW ON THIS GUIDANCE IN RESPONDING
TO QUESTIONS FROM MEDIA ON THIS SUBJECT. ANY PROPOSED
REPLIES TO QUESTIONS WHICH GO BEYOND THE ABOVE GUIDANCE
SHOULD BE CLEARED IN ADVANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

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HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE034125
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RPMYERS:DR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770053-1086
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770239/aaaabitf.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: f8284bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIDNAPPING OF PCV IN COLOMBIA
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CASC, CO, PC, (STARR, RICHARD CHARLES)
To: BOGOTA
Type: TE
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